

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A surgical implant for supporting the urethra, the implant including at least two fixing zones and a supporting zone, the supporting zone being interposed between the fixing zones and the fixing zones each having at least one retaining means for anchoring the fixing zones in the tissues of the retropubic space without penetrating the rectus sheath such that in use the supporting zone passes under the urethra.
2. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant for supporting the urethra comprising an anchor strip, the anchor strip comprising at least one fixing zone having at least one retaining means wherein in use a first portion of the anchor strip is retained in the tissues of the retropubic space above the endopelvic fascia and a second portion of the anchor strip extends into the a urethral pressure compartment below the endopelvic fascia and thereby supports, but does not pass under, the urethra.
3. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in claim 1 wherein the supporting zone is comprised of comprises mesh.
4. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in any preceding claim 1 wherein the retaining means are moveable from an inserting position to a retaining position.

5. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in claim 4 wherein the retaining means is comprise at least one projection which can project from the implant into the tissues of the retropubic space in at least one plane, the projection being moveable from a collapsed position to an extended position.
6. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in any preceding claim 1 wherein the retaining means is comprise glue.
7. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in claim 6 wherein the glue is comprises cyanoacrylate glue.
8. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in any preceding claim 1 wherein the at least one fixing zone has comprises a pointed end at a first end, a base portion at a second end, wherein longitudinal edges extend between the pointed end and the base and wherein the longitudinal edges are notched to provide a row of projections extending outward from the longitudinal edges.
9. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in any preceding claim 1 wherein the implant is comprised of plastics further comprising plastic material.
10. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in any preceding claim 1 wherein the implant is comprised of further comprising absorbable material.
11. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in claims 1 or 3 to 10 claim 1 wherein the material of the supporting zone is more quickly absorbed by the a body than the material of the fixing zones.
12. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in any preceding claim 1 wherein the implant further comprises comprising at least one resilient zone.

wherein the resilient zone provides for resilient extension of the implant along its longitudinal axis.

13. (Original) A surgical implant as claimed in claim 12 wherein the resilient zone is interposed between the fixing zone and the supporting zone.
14. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in any preceding claim 1 wherein the an unextended length of the implant is between 6 cm to 22 cm.
15. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in any of claims 2, 4 to 10 or 12 claim 2 wherein the an unextended length of the implant is between 4 cm to 8 cm.
16. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in any preceding claim 1 wherein a width of the implant is of width between 0.3 cm to 1.7 cm.
17. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in any preceding claim 1 wherein the a thickness of the implant is between of thickness 100 μm to 600 μm .
18. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in any preceding claim 1 wherein at least one of the fixing zones comprises pores which extend through the fixing zone material.
19. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in any preceding claim 1 wherein at least one of the fixing zones comprises pits that indent at least one surface of the fixing zone, but do not extend through the fixing zone.

20. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in any preceding claim 1 wherein at least one of the fixing zones comprise slits that extend through the fixing zone material.
21. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in any preceding claim 1 wherein at least one microgroove is provided on at least one fixing zone.
22. (Original) A surgical implant as claimed in claim 21 wherein a microgroove is between 0.5 μm to 7 μm in width and 0.25 μm to 7 μm in depth.
23. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in any one of claims 1, 3 to 22 claim 1 wherein the supporting zone comprises a marker to aid in identifying a the suitable location of the supporting zone under the urethra.
24. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant as claimed in any preceding claim 1 wherein each fixing zone comprises at least one aperture adapted to receive a tool for insertion of the implant into a the body.
25. Canceled.
26. Canceled.
27. (Currently Amended) A tool for inserting the a surgical implant, as claimed in any preceding claim the tool comprising an elongate shaft including a semi-blunt point at a first end and holding means to for releasably mounting the surgical implant on the shaft.

28. (Currently Amended) A tool as claimed in claim 27 wherein the holding means ~~comprises comprise~~ a recess extending from the semi-blunt point of the elongate shaft, the recess capable of receiving a portion of the surgical implant.
29. (Currently Amended) A tool as claimed in claim 28 wherein the recess is angled to twist a surgical implant received by the recess along its longitudinal length ~~such that the longitudinal edges of the fixing zone of the implant are directed away from the bladder.~~
30. (Currently Amended) A tool as claimed in ~~claims 28 and 29~~ claim 28 wherein the recess is offset such that a first portion forming a wall of the recess is longer than a second portion forming an opposite wall of the recess.
31. (Currently Amended) A tool as claimed in claim 27 wherein the holding means ~~comprises comprise~~ an abutment located toward the first end of the elongate shaft, wherein the semi-blunt point of the elongate shaft is capable of being passed through the surgical implant and the abutment is capable of hindering movement of the surgical implant down the length of the shaft toward the second end of the elongate shaft.
32. (Currently Amended) A method of supporting ~~the a~~ urethra comprising: ~~the steps of;~~
introducing a surgical implant ~~as claimed in any of claims 1, 3 to 24~~ into at least one incision made on ~~the an~~ upper wall of the vagina;
inserting a first end of the surgical implant behind ~~the a~~ first side of the urethra;
locating a first fixing zone of the surgical implant into the tissues of the retropubic space fascia without penetrating the rectus sheath;
inserting a second end of the surgical implant behind a second side of the urethra; and

locating a second fixing zone of the surgical implant into the tissues of the retropubic space above without penetrating the rectus sheath, such that the supporting zone passes under the urethra.

33. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting intra-abdominal pressure to the urethra comprising: the steps of

introducing an a first anchor strip into at least one incision made on an the upper wall of the vagina;

inserting a first portion of the first anchor strip behind the a first side of the urethra;

locating a first portion including a fixing zone of the first anchor strip into the tissues of the retropubic space above the endopelvic fascia without penetrating the rectus sheath;

locating a second portion of the first anchor strip alongside the urethra in the suburethral pressure compartment below the endopelvic fascia;

inserting a second anchor strip behind a second side of the urethra;

locating a first portion including a fixing zone of the second anchor strip into the tissues of the retropubic space above the endopelvic fascia without penetrating the rectus sheath; and

locating a second portion of the second anchor strip alongside the urethra in the suburethral pressure compartment below the endopelvic fascia.

34. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in any of claims 32 or 33 claim 32 which further comprises the step of comprising moving the retaining means from an inserting position to a retaining position.

35. Canceled.